



Kevin Murray
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SB 92 (Murray) **Spyware Penalties Measure**

ISSUE:

Last year, Senator Murray authored SB 1436, the Consumer Protection Against Computer Spyware Act that prohibits placing malicious spyware on a consumer's computer. Spyware are programs that perform various unseen and often malicious, functions on your computer without your knowledge. These programs can track what websites you visit, steal your passwords, access your financial information, log your keystrokes, bombard you with pop-ups, track your purchases, and remotely report your activity and personal information to a third party.

Computers are usually infected by spyware when users download free software or visit certain websites.

The scary part is that this is all done without the consumer's knowledge or consent. Adding insult to injury, much of this software is designed to be nearly impossible to uninstall.

SOLUTION:

This bill would add criminal and civil penalties to California's anti-spyware statute and would allow spyware recipients and Internet service providers to recover liquidated damages of \$1,000 per violation.

SPONSOR:

Senator Kevin Murray.